

"A WORKING NATION."**TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY.**

After the civic reception at the Drill Hall, the vice-regal party, Ministers of the Crown, and American officers proceeded to Albert Park to perform the tree-planting ceremony. A large square was roped off in the centre of the park, around the hand rounda. Some thousands of people witnessed the interesting ceremony, and loudly cheered those who performed the tree-planting operations.

The trees planted were all American and English oaks, known to be well adapted to the Auckland climate.

The Mayor called upon his Excellency the Governor to first handle the spade, which was entwined with coloured ribbons. Lord Plunket planted the first sturdy young oak to commemorate the visit of the battleship Louisiana. Lady Plunket next undertook the planting of an oak, to be known as the "Kansas," and her Excellency, with right goodwill, piled two shovelfuls of earth around the roots.

Lady Ward, in turn, was called upon to perform the ceremony of planting the Minnesota, on the southern side of the hand rounda.

The Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Ward, was received with hearty cheers, and he first covered the roots of the Georgia, and next those of the New Jersey. The earth lay loose near by, and only needed shovelling in, but the head of the Government spurred to adopt the formal method of sprinkling the roots with a light shower of soil, used his foot to send the spade deep into the earth in approved gardening style, and turned several heavy layers over the roots of the commemorative oaks, amidst a burst of hearty applause.

Something of an ovation awaited Sir Richard Moore, who also entered right heartily into the work, and the British Admiral's name will be handed down in this connection as having planted the Rhode Island and Virginia in New Zealand soil.

Admiral Sperry was next presented with the gardening implement, and was called upon to plant a fine cocinea, and was known as the Ohio. The American Admiral was also asked to plant the Missouri, and performed the ceremony amidst the ringing cheers of the vast crowd of spectators. "I am sorry to have to ask you to work so hard," remarked the Mayor, as Admiral Sperry turned the soil. The reply of the American Admiral was a naive one. "It's all right," he said; "we are a working nation, you know."

Rear-Admiral Wainwright performed a similar ceremony in connection with the planting of the Maine and the Kearsarge. Rear-Admiral Schroeder followed in like manner with oaks, which in future will be known as the Kentucky and Alabama, while Captain Potter concluded the ceremony by planting the Illinois.

The Mayor then announced to the watching crowd that the last tree had been planted, and each bore the name of an American battleship. Loud cheers were again given, and the party drove off amidst the playing of bands and the continual cheering of the crowd.

LUNCHEON TO OFFICERS.

The tree-planting proceedings concluded, an adjournment was made for luncheon, the following guests proceeding to the residence of the Mayor (Mr A. M. Myers), at "Citra," Symonds-street:—

His Excellency the Governor (Lord Plunket), Captain Gathorne Hardy, A.D.C., Rear-Admiral Chas. S. Sperry, Rear-Admiral Richard Wainwright, Rear-Admiral W. H. Emory, Rear-Admiral Beaton Schroeder, Captain Wm. H. Potter, Captain John Hubbard, Captain Osterhaus, Commander A. W. Grant (Chief of Staff), His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Moore, Captain Joseph K. Mizziura, Sir Joseph Ward (Prime Minister), Mr. Trelkitt (Consultant-General), Captain Fyler, Hon. Dr. Findlar, Flag-Captain G. J. Prowse, Flag-Lieutenant J. C. Fisher, Col. Robin, C.B., Sir John Campbell, Her Excellency Lady Plunket, Hon. K. Plunket, Miss Prickett, Mrs. Louis Myers, Mrs. W. Coleman, Mrs. Leo Myers, Miss Williams, Mrs. Rayner, Mrs. Mitchellson, Mrs. Geo. Bloomfield, Lady Ward, Miss Ward, Mrs. Prickett, Mrs. Fyler, Mrs. Findlay, Lady Campbell.

About 120 officers from the fleet partook of lunch at the Auckland Club, and a similar number at the Northern Club. The utmost good fellowship was a feature everywhere, and the best of relations were soon firmly established between the hosts and their guests. Anecdotes and general conversation, interspersed with a flavour of humour, contributed to render the occasions highly pleasurable.

THE MILITARY REVIEW.**OVER THREE THOUSAND ON PARADE.****A SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION.**

In the afternoon of Monday a review was held in the Auckland Domain, and witnessed by some 30,000 spectators. The volunteers paraded strongly, and acquitted themselves with credit in the march past, and the advance in review order. There was a vast multitude of people in the Domain to witness the ceremony, and the numbers of them might have been anything from 25,000 to 50,000—it was impossible in the wide scattered area to guess with even approximate accuracy how many were present. The volunteers and the spectators were early on the ground, the former being drawn up in quarter column along the ridge of the hill facing the Hospital, and above the hollow main drive which runs past the Hospital on the eastern side. This was unfortunate, because a large part of the Mounted Rifles and the whole of A Battery were invisible at the saluting point, a rise in the elevated ground to the north obscuring them completely. The people were for the most part on the round-topped excrescence between the parade ground and the cricket field, but were also thickly strewn over various parts of the other elevated spots. Punctually at three o'clock the Governor and Lady Plunket arrived and immediately took their places at the saluting point, her Excellency, who was clad in her handsome uniform as Hon. Lieut.-Col. of the North Canterbury Regiment of Mounted Rifles, standing between the Governor, who wore the uniform of the Commander of the N.Z. Forces, and Rear-Admiral Sperry. Behind them were members of the Defence Council (Cols. Robin, C.B., and Davies, C.B.) and other military officers of rank. The guests, military and civil, were accommodated in a special stand, with a wide enclosure surrounding it. The Veterans' Association provided the guard of honour on the occasion.

Immediately the Governor was ready the review began, and the whole division, under Lieut.-Col. G. C. B. Wolfe, O.C.D., marched past. The first brigade was the Public School Cadets, under Lieut.-Col. Loveday. They were divided into three battalions, commanded by Majors Robb, Dunlop, and Kay. The boys marched well, considering the uneven nature of the ground, and maintained great steadiness of line in most cases. They were greeted with cheers all along the line, and they deserved it. Following came Lieut.-Col. Wolfe, officer commanding the district, conspicuous by scarlet tunic and plumed hat of his rank, riding at the head of two other brigades, with his staff officers, Capt. Carpenter, A.A.G., and Capt. Whyte, A.Q.M.G., riding in advance. Passing the saluting point, he fell out and took post alongside to the right of the Governor. The Mounted Brigade followed. The A Battery came first, in command of Capt. Sherston, and preceded by Capt. Bosworth, I.O., rumbled past with the four guns well in line. With their lumbering guns and the fine uniform of the Field Artillery—dark blue with white facings, and black busby with the blood-red splash of colour—they were a striking sight. After them came the Auckland Mounted Rifles, 800 strong in command of Lieut.-Col. W. D. Holgate, whose outriders were Major Wynyard (1st Regiment), Capt. H. Browne (Gen. Instructional Staff), the latter being especially conspicuous by his handsome 14th King's Hussars uniform. In the forefront of each regiment was the King's Colour, in charge of the Regimental Sergt.-Major, attended by two sergeants. Behind the squadrons, led by the captains, came jolting and jingling, a magnificent array of men, on horses of all kinds and sizes—from the light pony to the nearly half-draught, the thoroughbred to the bow-backed charger, which had seen better days, rough, unshorn, farm ponies, and clean, well-fed hunters—all in a heterogeneous mass, which indicated a farmer soldiery rather than dandy cavalrymen, yet none the less serviceable for that. Lieut.-Col. Holgate, was in charge of the 1st Regiment, Major Bell the 2nd, and Major Eccles the 3rd Regiment. The fourth was represented by a small half-company, which was attached to one of the others. Bringing up the rear were

40 or 50 ex-contingents, under Capt. Cauton, on foot—why not mounted one cannot say. They were greeted with a tumult of joyous shouting; the public memory of their deeds is not wiped out, but has been sleeping. These were men who had left their civil employment to fight for the Empire, and had returned to civil life after the war, having no doubt had their fill of wars, and no taste left for the dull round of routine. The eye of the cinematograph, which was taking in all the most interesting details of the review, was riveted on them as they passed. In the van of the next brigade was Lieut.-Col. Porritt. Following him were the Garrison Artillery Division in two long lines, and a shorter one—there were nearly a hundred men in the Nos. 1 and 3 companies, and almost as many in the No. 2 company. The Engineers, resplendent in scarlet, but few in numbers, followed. After them came the Infantry. First the No. 1 Battalion, under Lieut.-Col. Reed, blazing in scarlet, with its two colours blowing in the wind—the Regimental Colour of the Countess of Ranfurly's own, and a King's colour, vastly superior to those issued to the units by the Defence Department. This is not the place to speak at large about the King's Colours, presented by the Department to the units who sent men to South Africa, but it must be confessed that they have been deservedly condemned for their want of adequate quality. The Battalion's colour is worthy of the name. In the rear of the battalion the College Rifles were made a conspicuous figure, because they were divided into signallers bearing folded flags and maxim gunners dragging two machine guns. Attached to No. 1 Battalion were the Whangarei Rifles. Following them were the companies of the No. 2 Battalion in khaki under Major Kenrick. The rear was brought up by the Field Hospital Corps. Last of all came the Defence Cadets, first the battalions from King's College (three companies), with the St. John's company attached, then the four huge companies of the Grammar School, followed by the Eden's Cadets. The first and third companies of King's, and the fourth company of Grammar School marched past magnificently, and their performance elicited long, loud plaudits from the crowd. St. John's had not attended the rehearsal, and found themselves treading hard on the heels of the King's boys, instead of being the regulation distance away. The Eden cadets marched by very steadily. The bands were massed opposite the saluting point, and played well, occasionally lapsing in a change. They played well enough for the general advances, but were painfully late coming in with the National Anthem after the Royal salute.

The advance in review order was well done, but the Battery and some of the M.R. were quite invisible in the dip of the ridge. The Royal salute was very impressive.

PRESENTATION OF THE WALSH SHIELD.

This ended the review, but there yet remained duty for the Governor to do. The school cadets were drawn up conveniently for the Governor to speak to them, and he then presented to Mr. Bagnall, for the Education Board, the fine shield presented to the city and suburban schools by Mr. M. H. Walsh. His Excellency made no speech in presenting the shield. He said the shield had been presented for drill competition between the City and Suburban schools. It would, he said, be very useful, and should stimulate a healthy competition between the cadets. He was very pleased that the shield should have been presented. He then presented the shield to Mr. Bagnall. The trophy is excellently designed. In the midst is a representation in silver of St. George killing the dragon, and above is the characteristic badge of the school cadet. It is a challenge shield, and cannot be won outright. Around the central design are a number of silver shields whereon to engrave the winners' names.

ADMIRAL SPERRY CHEERED.

This concluded the ceremonies, and the Governor drove off with his escort amidst the cheers of the crowd. As Admiral Sperry walked down to Sir Joseph Ward's carriage the crowd gave him a thundering ovation, to which he replied by cordially bowing and raising his hat. As he and his officers entered their carriages and drove off, they had another ovation from the assembled people, and they departed to a ringing accompaniment of a salvo of cheers all along the line.

THE GOVERNMENT BANQUET**CONSPICUOUSLY BRILLIANT FUNCTION.****OVER SEVEN HUNDRED GUESTS.**

The banquet tendered to Admiral O. S. Sperry and officers of the fleet by the New Zealand Government was in every sense of the word a brilliant success. The most cheerful surroundings imaginable, gay decorations, cheerful spirits brim full of good humour, all were factors in promoting the most effective kind of enjoyment. Shortly after 8 o'clock most of the guests were in their places, and the playing of the National Anthem by Burke's orchestra announced the arrival of His Excellency the Governor, Lord Plunket, Admiral C. S. Sperry, and the Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Ward. As soon as the party were seated the banquet was begun, and full justice was done to the very excellent fare provided. The stubborn British reserve of the naval officers of the Powerful, Encounter and Pioneer melted away before the American officers' genial conversation and flow of anecdote, and all joined in as one man to make the function as happy and agreeable as possible, and one that will not soon be forgotten.

Sir Joseph Ward occupied a seat on the platform at the end of the hall with Admiral Sperry on his left and his Excellency the Governor on his right. Next to the Governor sat Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Moore. Many others, whose names are household words in American homes and are not unknown to us, also occupied this table, notably Admiral Richard Wainwright, silver-haired, though with a comparatively young-looking face, who is a gentleman with a history—at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war he was executive officer on the old Maine and narrowly escaped with a whole skin, as he was actually on the vessel at the time it was blown up, and during the Spanish war at the battle of Santiago he was in charge of the gunboat Gloucester, and with that boat alone he sunk three Spanish torpedo boats and captured the Spanish Admiral.

It was somewhat difficult to realise just at once what an important part those gentlemen wearing the uniform of the United States navy have played in the history of nations during even recent years. Here one might talk to a young Lieutenant who has had more experience in the actual death dealing part of naval tactics than many a grey-bearded veteran who has followed the profession for the whole of his life. Next to him a veteran fighter, with a reputation extending over four continents. But all went merrily as the proverbial marriage bell. British and American naval officers exchanged anecdotes, and each vied with the others to make things comfortable and chatty for the others right away.

An interesting figure seated at the Premier's table was Flag-Lieutenant Wurtzbaugh, who for many years past has played a conspicuous part in American naval tactics; indeed, the fleet manoeuvres, for which Lieutenant Wurtzbaugh is primarily responsible, are known throughout the American navy as "Wurtzbaugh's tactics." This gentleman has also been singled out for special distinction in connection with the well-known Seymour Expedition at the time of the Boxer outbreak. Lieutenant Wurtzbaugh is a tall, well proportioned gentleman with a large benevolent face and a genial smile that invites confidence.

TOAST OF THE KING AND PRESIDENT.

In proposing the toast of the King and President, Sir Joseph Ward said:—I have the honour to propose the toast of the King of our Empire and the President of the United States—Edward VII. and Theodore Roosevelt—two great names whose mention stirs the heart of every man who loves honour, manliness and untiring devotion to a great office. (Applause.)

No reason is needed, but there is a suggestive fitness in joining these commanding figures in one toast. The world knows that each has in common many splendid qualities; each is a profound admirer of the other, each stands before the world a horn ruler richly endowed with the saving grace of common sense—(hear, hear)—each, while cosmopolitan in his sympathies, is a great and ardent lover of his own country and his own people. (Prolonged applause.) Each is